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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Unrest in the Bulgarian Tobacco Industry	DATE DISTR.	11 Sept. 1953
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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
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1. Severe labor unrest was reported in Plovdiv in June or early July 1953. Until recently tobacco grown in Bulgaria was processed in factories in Plovdiv prior to being exported to the Soviet Union. When it was announced that the USSR would take unprocessed tobacco in the future for processing in the USSR with a new process, large number of workers became unemployed in the Plovdiv region. Protest meetings were organized; the government in Sofia sent a mediator to Plovdiv to reason with the workers, but they shouted him down.

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2. In an effort to ameliorate the unemployment situation, the Bulgarian government called in various experts to study the problem of increasing tobacco exports to the West.

The Bulgarian tobacco experts who were summoned to the consultations were formerly private merchants and exporters who had had their businesses expropriated and had been deprived of their livelihoods.<sup>1</sup>

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Comment: that approximately 300 persons were arrested by the Militia following the out-

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breaks at Plovdiv; of these at least 50 were allegedly shot and the others sent to concentration and forced labor camps for unknown sentences. Similar protest demonstrations were allegedly held in the areas of Pernik (now Dimitrovo) and Gorna Dzhumaya (now Blagoevgrad) in the Struma Valley.

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